# ADVERTISEMENT.

1. A *Diſcourſe concerning Conſcience, the firſt Part. Wherein an Account is given of the* Nature, *and* Rule, *and* Obligation *of it. And the Caſe of thoſe who Separate from the Communion of the* Church of England *as by Law Eſtabliſhed, upon this Pretence, That it is* againſt their Conſcience *to joyn in it, is ſtated and diſcuſſed.*

2. *A Reſolution of this Caſe,* viz. *Whether it be Lawful to Separate from the Publick Worſhip of God in the Parochial* Aſſemblies *of* England, *upon that New Pretence which ſome Men make, of the Caſe being much altered now from what it was, when the* Puritans *wrote againſt the* Browniſts, *and the* Presbyterians *againſt the* Independent?

3. *Reſolution of two Caſes of Conſcience in two Diſcourſes? The Firſt, Of the Lawfulneſs of Compliance with all the Ceremonies of the Church of* England. *The Second, Of the neceſſity of the uſe of Common-Prayer in Publick.*

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# SHORT and SEASONABLE DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

# PROTESTANT

AND A

# PAPIST:

SHEWING

The Indiſcretion and Unadviſedneſs of all APOSTATES from the Goſpel.

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# SHORT and SEASONABLE DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

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SHEWING

## The Unadviſedneſs and Indiſcretion of all APOSTATES from the Goſpel.

*PROTESTANT.* Good morrow Neighbour.

*Papiſt.* I would alſo bid you Good morrow were it not for your Hereſie, but I am bound to be an Enemy of your Religion and its Profeſſors.

*Proteſtant.* How come you to be bound to ſuch an unreaſonable temper? Have we not lived many years as good Neighbours? I never wrong'd you, but have been always ready to ſerve and help you according to my power; I have lent you Money out of my Pocket, and you never deſired any kindneſs from me that ever I refuſed. Why are you now ſo ſtrange? why will you now be at enmity with your Friends upon the account of Religion?

*Papiſt.* I ſhall be excommunicated if I countenance and favour ſuch as you are, and be curs'd to the Pit of Hell by my moſt Holy Father.

*Proteſtant.* He muſt be a very unreaſonable Tyrant that will require any ſuch ridiculous and wicked reſolution from you, as pernicious to your ſelf as to us *Proteſtants* in this Nation; for, if you declare enmity againſt us, can you expect our protection where we are Maſters? if you ſtudy to embroil the Nation, can you deſire from us to be treated as Friends and Countrymen? if in ſtead of wiſhing us a good morning, or a good day, you are plotting to cut our

Throats, can you in reason and justice expect to live in safety amongst us? Whosoever therefore hath given you this ill deviliſh temper, and enmity againſt your Countrymen and Neighbours, never wiſh'd you well. They ſeek your ruine and ours together, and to advantage themſelves by the Tumults and Diſorders of the Nation. Don't you perceive their wicked deſigns to deſtroy us all, under the pretence of Religion, and to ſet over us a foreign Power, a *Frenchman* or an *Italian*? and muſt not you be a Mad-man to encourage ſo great a Treaſon againſt your Natural Prince and Countrymen? Have you more inclination to be a Slave to a Foreigner, than to enjoy the freedom of a Subject? are you ſo blind to think that God's honour is promoted by your enmity with us? Let our Hereſie be never ſo great, That relates to our ſelves, not to you. You may enjoy the liberties of the *Engliſh* Subjects, and the Laws would never have concern'd themſelves with you, no otherwiſe than with the reſt of the Nation, were you but as peaceably affected and diſpoſed as they are all, and as mindful of the Publick ſafety. Why will you by your hatred draw upon your ſelves thoſe miſchiefs, puniſhments, and reſtraints, which you may avoid by being as good to us as we have deſired to be to you?

*Papiſt.* You ſpeak reaſon, were not the buſineſs of Religion concerned, and the glory of our God. But this makes us not only hazard our lives and fortunes, but declare an unreconcilable hatred to our deareſt Relations whom we judge to be contrary to the ſame. We cannot be well affected to thoſe who are not ſo to our Pope and the holy Maſs, which two things we honour above all earthly concerns, and cannot ſuffer the leaſt thought which might injure ſo tender a part of our Religion. This makes us look upon you Hereticks, though our Countrymen, as the greateſt Enemies of truth and goodneſs; and the more averſe we are to you, the more we ſhall merit Heaven, and deſerve the greater favour from Chriſt and his Vicar.

*Proteſtant.* What a ſtrange Perſwaſion is this? what Infatuation hath poſſeſs'd your Souls? Religion do ye ſay, is your Religion the cauſe of your enmity againſt us your Brethren? is it your Religion that prompts you and perſwades you to be cruel and inhumane to your own blood, to nouriſh hatred in your minds, and break out into Diſorders and Barbarities? From ſuch a Religion, good Lord deliver us. My Friend, pray tell me what is the Religion thou doſt profeſs. Is it Chriſt's Religion, or the Pope's?

*Papiſt.* They two are but one, for I am a *Roman Catholick*, taught to live according to the Rules of Chriſt and his bleſſed Apoſtles, as they have been delivered to and by the Church of *Rome*, the Mother of all other Churches of the World.

*Proteſtant.* Thou deliverеſt in few words a heap of the greateſt abſurdities imaginable: Chriſt's Religion and the Pope's are two diſtinct Profeſſions, as oppoſite as Light and Darkneſs, as the *Nadyr* and the *Zenith* of the Aſtrologers, or as the *Antipodes* are to our Climate; for Chriſt's Religion allows of no bowing to, or before Images of Stone, Timber, Gold, or Silver: the Pope's Religion commands this Idol-worſhip, and furniſhes us with an infinite number of Beads, Images, Croſſes, Relicks, and ſuch-like Trinkets that we are to reverence and worſhip. Chriſt's Religion ſaith, that we have but one Mediator betwixt God and Man, the Man Chriſt Jeſus. The Pope's Religion ſaith, that we have thouſands and thouſands of Saints and Angels, whoſe Merits and Interceſſion ſave us as well as the blood of the Lamb of God that was ſacrificed for us upon the Croſs. Chriſt's Religion teaches us that God hath made him alone the Head of the Church; and, though in Heaven, he governs all things according to his pleaſure on Earth, he defends his People, ſaves them from ruine and deſtruction; he diſappoints the Plots of wicked Men. The Pope's Religion ſaith that the Pope is the Head of the Chriſtian Church, by whoſe wiſdom and direction we are to govern our actions;

ons; and that he hath power to abolish the Laws of God, and establish new ones at his pleasure. Christ's Religion hath recommended to us two Sacraments, as Seals of the Covenant of Grace: The Pope's Religion saith there are seven. Christ's Religion teaches how we are to administer these two Sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, as he hath shewed us in the Gospel. The Pope's Religion hath introduced Salt, Oyl, and so many conjuring Tricks, Motions, and various Postures, that agree not with the holy simplicity of the Gospel, nor with the essential parts of Christian Religion. Christ's Religion hath no Masses, Transubstantiation, Pilgrimages, and such-like Fopperies, that render the *Papists* ridiculous to their *Heathen* and *Mahometan* Neighbours. Christ's Religion commands Honesty, Charity, Love, Mercy to Enemies, as well as Friends, enjoins an obedience to all the Moral Law; forbids Cruelty, Rebellion, Murder, Adultery, Fornication, and such-like wickedness contrary to the Light of Reason. The Pope's Religion teaches Inhumanities, encourages Faction and Rebellion, uncleanness, and Disorders; and for worldly ends allows of the greatest Villanies and Abuses. How can you think now that these two Religions are but one, that are so contrary in their Principles? Pretences and Cloaks will avail nothing to palliate these fowl Actions and Doctrines. All the World sees that what I have here said of them both is true. The Church of *Rome* never learn'd from Christ, nor his Apostles, to murder Kings, to assassinate Princes, to massacre millions of Souls, to dispence with Oaths, to forbid Matrimony, to allow Concubines, to countenance Crimes, to encourage Sin. The Church of *Rome* never had from Christ, nor his holy Apostles, any thing of the Doctrines of *Purgatory*, Transubstantiation, the Merits of the Saints, the worshipping of Angels, and a great deal more that I purposely omit.

*Papist.* From hence I warrant you you will conclude, that *Papists* are no Christians.

*Protestant.* They are Christians by name, and our comprehensive charity will allow them something more, to be Christians because of their Christian Initiation by Baptism, though corrupted and sophisticated with their idle Inventions. But they are no Christians in reality, if they observe strictly the Rules of their Popish Religion, and stick close to the Doctrines and Commands of the Pope. They forsake Christ and his Gospel when they allow themselves liberty to sin by the Pope's Authority, and may be reckon'd amongst the Apostats of Christianity, because they begin well, and ingage themselves by Baptism to Christ's most holy Profession; but immediately after they deviate from it, and run headlong a quite contrary way to that which Christ hath appointed by his Commands and holy Examples. They are Christians as the *Arrians*, *Socinians*, and other Hereticks that denyed the Divinity of our blessed Redeemer, and other Fundamentals of the Christian Faith. They are as the circumcised *Jews* that embrac'd the Idolatries of Paganism, and left the Religion which God had commanded them.

*Papist.* But how comes it to pass that some of your Ministers say, that it is possible for *Papists* to be saved, if they be not, or such bad Christians as you have represented.

*Protestant.* I think there is none but a Flatterer that will say, that it is possible to be saved by the Religion of the Church of *Rome*; for not salvation, but damnation is declared and threatened in Gods Holy Word, to all such Persons as shall forsake Christ and his Merits, to rely upon Saints and Angels, as shall practice all those abominations that the Church of *Rome* recommends to us. It may be some out of a very great Charity may say, that it is possible to be in the Communion of the *Romish* Church, and yet obtain salvation from the infinite goodness of a God whose mercy is above all his works. It belongs not to us to tell who are, and who are not saved. It is an impudency in Man to prescribe Rules and Laws to the great

Creator,

Creator, and appoint whom he ſhall, and whom he ſhall not admit into his *Paradiſe* and glory; or to curſe, or damn his Fellow Creatures. God may waſh and cleanſe from ſin the vileſt of Men, and the impureſt of Heathens; and pardon them all their tranſgreſſions, and make them partakers of the blood of a crucified Chriſt, by an infuſed Faith at the moment of their departure out of the World: God may find out means that we are not aware of, to ſanctifie and glorifie whom he pleaſeth. Therefore we may ſay, that ſuch may be ſaved notwithſtanding their former unworthineſs and baſeneſs; but 'tis not by that Life they led on Earth. Thus we confeſs many good and religious *Roman* Catholicks may be ſaved, but not by that Religion which they profeſs; not by Maſſes, *Purgatory*, Images, the Merits of Saints; for we may confidently affirm, that by theſe things no Man can be ſaved. This Charity of ours ſhould not encourage you in your Errours and Hereſies, but rather oblige you to forſake them: For, is it a ſufficient Reaſon for a Man to caſt himſelf Over-board, to ſay he may by chance ſwim to Shore through the Billows of the Sea, when he may be ſafely carried to Land otherwiſe, by abiding in the Ship. The Thiefs fate upon the Croſs makes us believe that Thieves and Robbers may at laſt find a gracious Saviour, and a good God to pardon them: but is this the way to obtain it, to rob our Neighbours, and plunder their Eſtates? A Man may eſcape through a Fire, and only his Clothes may be ſinged, but we muſt not therefore caſt our ſelves into it without a neceſſity. But let me tell you Neighbour, if you, or any other *Papiſt* knows the truth, and wilfully ſhut your Eyes to all the diſcoveries of it; if you ſee your errour and miſtakes, and think that by profeſſing them you may be ſaved, you will find your ſelves cozened at laſt; for Gods grace ſeldom or never works upon an obſtinate heart, hardened by wilful continuance in a known Sin, or Errour; and there is no ſalvation to be expected for a reſolved lover of Vice or Errour, who prefers them to his Duty, and Gods holy Commands.

*Papiſt.* But how comes it to paſs, that ſo many ingenuous and learned Men, whoſe Eyes are as much open as yours, or your Miniſters, not only continue in our Religion, but now a-days forſake your Religion to return again to the Religion of the Pope of *Rome*, and are zealous *Papiſts*, as you call them.

*Proteſtant.* Truly it may ſeem a very great wonder, that Men of any reaſon in them, not prejudic'd by Education, ſhould embrace ſo ridiculous a Religion, ſo full of Fopperies and Extravagances as yours is of the Church of *Rome*, and ſhould become ſo great Enemies of their humane Nature, and of their preſent, as well as of their future Intereſt. Ridiculous I call the Popiſh Religion, becauſe it teaches that a bald-pated Pope can forgive me all my ſins, diſpenſe with the Laws of God, change and alter the fundamental Laws of the humane Nature: It teaches us to pray to God and the Saints in unknown Tongues, wherein Men ſpeak as often Nonſenſe as Reaſon: It teaches us to call upon them that cannot hear us, nor yield any aſſiſtance in time of need; that a piece of Bread with a few words is altered into an humane Body, like that of our Saviours upon the Croſs: that though it taſtes like Bread, and looks like Bread, or a Wafer, that it is a real Saviour, a Chriſt, an *Emanuel*, a God, and what not: That we muſt not believe all our Senſes, but give them the Lye on this occaſion: That this tranſubſtantiated Body is circumſcribed by place and time, and yet every where upon every Prieſts Fingers: That their God is to be eaten by Mice and Rats, carried away by Devils, and abuſed by wicked Men, and ſubject to all the affronts that the meaneſt of Creatures are ſubject to, or ſuch ridiculous and extravagant fancies. that no Man of any reaſon can entertain any ſuch wild opinions of his omnipotent and infinite Maker, or make profeſſion of a Religion that advances any ſuch horrid abſurdities. It may ſeem very ſtrange, that Men of any reaſonable Education can yield to any ſuch Doctrines as are Conſequents to the Tranſubſtantiation, the worſhipping

ſing of Images, the praying to Saints and Angels, the Fancies of *Purgatory*, the Indulgences of *Rome*, and ſuch-like Opinions, which are ſo plainly repugnant with our Reaſon, that none but Mad-men and Fools, none but Blind-men and Sots, can ſubmit to ſuch inhumane and unreaſonable Impieties, which are as prejudicial to a glorious God, as they are to a reaſonable Soul, and tend to give us ſuch mean conceits of our great Creator, that theſe Doctrines muſt needs proceed from the Devil, the great Enemy of us both, ſeeing they tend to turn God into *ridicule*.

*Papiſt.* Hold, hold; we can ſhew the Word of God to prove all theſe things that you wonder at, and the Writings of the holy Fathers; unto them you ſay that our reaſon ought to ſubmit and yield obedience, and why not in theſe Particulars?

*Proteſtant.* It is a great miſtake, to ſay the Word of God, or the approved Fathers of the Primitive Church allows your errours. Where have you any thing of Maſſes, *Purgatory*, Tranſubſtantiation, bowing to Images, praying to Saints and Angels, and ſuch-like things, in the Word of God, or the Writings of the Fathers? but rather we can ſhew you out of them Paſſages contrary to theſe Errours. I deſire not that you ſhould ſhew me the names, but the things ſignified thereby. It is impoſſible, whatever your Doctors ſay, to ſhew the leaſt ſign of thoſe Doctrines, that we deny to be Chriſtian, or rational. I could mention ſeveral Paſſages that ſpeak the contrary, which, becauſe they are well known, I ſhall omit. But are not Men ridiculous and blind, in hopes of preferment, or for worldly advantages, to become *Papiſts*, when they may ſafely profeſs a better, and a more reaſonable Religion, not guilty of ſuch wild and mad Principles? They are Fools that will prefer the preſent advantages, benefits, and honours of Life, to the immortal poſſeſſions and glories of Eternity; they are worſe than Fools that cannot ſee the Extravagancy of the *Romiſh* Faith: and what ſhall we ſay of thoſe that ſee it, and yet embrace it? Men that are brought up in the *Proteſtant* Religion, as it is miſ-called, but ſhould be rather named the old *Catholick Apoſtolick* Religion, which Chriſt and his holy Apoſtles have profeſſed before us, and recommended to the Doctors and Biſhops of the firſt Ages, and they have delivered to us, and which is recorded for us in the Word of God. Men that ſee the follies of an implicite Faith, and the dangers they run into by denying Reaſon that liberty which God and Nature allow it; Men that are not biaſſed to the Church of *Rome* by Education, that ſuch men ſhould forſake the Church of *England*, and become *Papiſts*: after that they have had a full Proſpect and Knowledge of Chriſt and his Goſpel, is a ſtrange Myſtery that we cannot very well underſtand, nor unfold, unleſs we knew all the Intrigues of their Lives, and the Inclinations of their Hearts However ſuch men, let their Reaſon and Learning be never ſo great, become ridiculous in the Eyes of their unprejudiced Neighbours. Their unconſtancy is an unpardonable Crime, which a *Turk*, or a *Jew*, looks upon to be a great diſgrace in this caſe, unleſs the Errour be palpable; but to be unconſtant in the ways of God, to forſake his Word, and his Religion, to ſtifle the motions of Conſcience, to abandon our Intereſt in Chriſt, in his Promiſes and everlaſting Rewards, to make profeſſion of ſo ridiculous and ſo inhumane a Religion as the *Papiſh*, ſo directly oppoſed to that of our Bleſſed Saviours, is an unconſtancy and weakneſs that is aggravated with the moſt hainous Circumſtances, in regard that Religion appears ſo fooliſh and childiſh in the Eyes of all rational men, and recommends to them ſuch Fopperies and Whimſeys, that none that hath the leaſt ſhare in this light of Nature, can well entertain them without blinding this Natural Eye. If we ſhould ſearch into the Souls of thoſe underſtanding perſons, as Apoſtatize to the Pope, we ſhould find them to be either *Atheiſts*, Men of no Faith, nor Belief of God, Hell, or Heaven; of the Rewards of the

one,